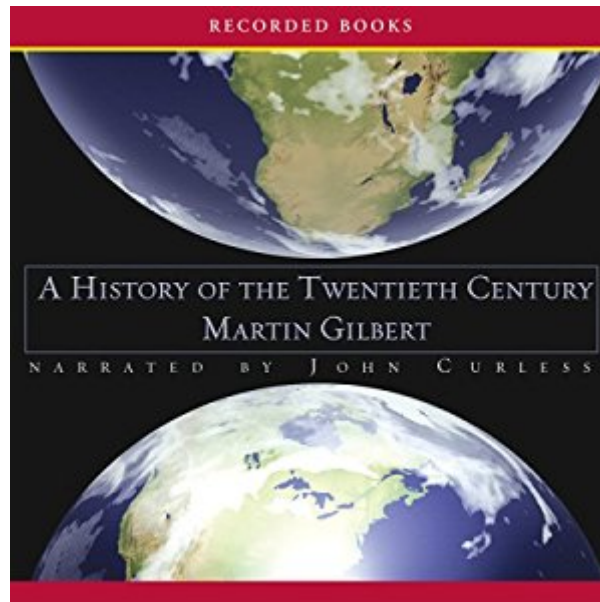


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# A History Of The Twentieth Century



## Synopsis

Martin Gilbert, author of the multivolume biography of Winston Churchill and other brilliant works of history, chronicles world events year by year, from the dawn of aviation to the flourishing technology age, taking us through World War I to the inauguration of Franklin Roosevelt as president of the United States and Hitler as chancellor of Germany. He continues on to document wars in South Africa, China, Ethiopia, Spain, Korea, Vietnam, and Bosnia, as well as apartheid, the arms race, the moon landing, and the beginnings of the computer age, while interspersing the influence of art, literature, music, and religion throughout this vivid work. A rich, textured look at war, celebration, suffering, life, death, and renewal in the century gone by, this volume is nothing less than extraordinary.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I purchased this book on recommendation for the FSOT exam for US Diplomats. Its function as such is my primary interest, although I prefer well-written books over reference tomes. I am on page 130 of this book and I am growing weary fast. It's just an endless list of facts which progress (or slouch along?) chronologically, with geographical changes of stage from time to time. While this style of writing "covers the bases" of the facts of what happened in the 20th Century occident, when I read a book, I expect to get some glue, or some authorial insight to the base materials behind the book. Because let's face it, even the most brilliant person is not going to be able to store endless facts in their head: say, the number of Croats killed in the first Balkan war. But it is reasonable to digest these facts as part of certain themes: that the ongoing ethnic strife in the Balkans fomented

WWI and continued up until the most recent NATO activities in the Kosovo war. Ah, now we have a theme, a big idea that is easy to understand, which can be porous to all the little facts as you begin to assimilate them. These are the facts pertinent to an FSOT exam, any student of history. But their continuity, the connection between the facts, is EVERY bit as important as the raw numbers. This man likes writing in numbers. Specifically of how many people died here, there, and everywhere. In a sense, it's a good (and in this book, a constant, constant, constant, constant, constant) reminder of how much human death brought us into the 21st century. But I get it, ok, dude? I don't need to hear this crap over and over again, let's move on! The constant refrain of death figures becomes its own dulling agent.

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